

## PREFACE

was published by Gigli as an appendix to his edition of the *Dialogs*, and was freely rendered into English by Augusta Drane. None of the Saint's early biographers or contemporaries make any mention of this work, which adds nothing to our knowledge of the thought and doctrine of the seraphic virgin. In the absence of any external evidence in its favour, I am disposed to regard its authenticity as highly questionable.

In dealing with the two great political struggles in which Catherine was engaged, I am much indebted to Alessandro Gherardi, *La Guerra dei Fiorentini con Papa Gregorio XI*, as also to his edition of the *Diario d'Anonimo Fiorentino*, and to the masterly work of M. Noel Valois, *La France et le Grand Schisme d'Occident*. The *pieces justificative*\* published by the Abbe Gayet have often proved most useful. I have, however, in many cases preferred to go directly to the original documents bearing upon the Great Schism, still existing in the *Archivv'w Segreto* of the Vatican, by the aid of which I am able to give a somewhat full account of the origin of that extraordinary event.

My grateful thanks are due to the authorities and officials of the Vatican Archives and Vatican Library, of the Biblioteca Casanatense and Biblioteca Vittorio Emanuele at Rome, of the Biblioteca Nazionale and Biblioteca Riccardiana of Florence, and of the Biblioteca Comunale of Siena, for their kind assistance and never-failing courtesy ; as also to the Canonico Vittorio Lusini of the Duomo of Siena, whose works on the churches of his native city are so highly valued by all students of Sienese matters, for his kindness in enabling me to have the opportunity of a more intimate study of the original letter of Saint Catherine to Stefano Maconi, now a treasured possession of the Confraternity of Santa Lucia in Siena.

E. G. G,

Siena,

In festo Nativitatis B. M. V.